

TIPS FOR PROPER PLANTING OF CONTAINERIZED TREES

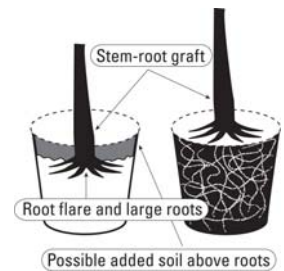
This information is provided to local partners and the public as part of the Restoration Of Our Trees Program.

Handling and storing your tree:

- Always handle tree by the container to prevent damage to the root mass and base of the trunk attachment.
- Keep tree in shaded location and maintain moist roots until planted.
- It's best to plant your tree as soon as you arrive home, but containerized trees can be stored for 7-14 days if the roots are kept moist.

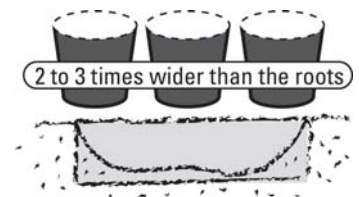
Planting:

- Locate where the large supporting roots are found within the container. They may be visible on the surface or might be covered by a couple inches of soil.
- These large supporting roots will help you identify the correct depth at which to dig the hole. At the base of a typical non-transplanted tree, these large roots will be found at the ground surface.
- Serious root related problems can arise in the future when trees have been planted too deep (girdling roots strangle the stem causing premature decline, increasing the chance of wind-throw).



Size and Shape of the hole:

- The diameter of the hold should be two to three times the width of the container.
- Typically your hole should be 10-12 inches deep, but look for the root collar of your tree. The root collar is the flare of the trunk just above the roots. Planting depth should keep the root collar even with the ground level once planted.



Inspect root mass for circling and girdling roots

- Place tree on its side and remove the entire container.
- Using a sharp utility knife or hand pruners, make four or five lengthwise cuts into the sides of the root mass to sever any circling roots. Make four or five cuts across the bottom side of the root mass also.
- Loosen up surface roots with your fingers and straighten out any large roots.



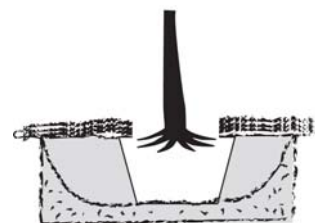
TIPS FOR PROPER PLANTING OF CONTAINERIZED TREES (CONT'D)

Back-filling the hole:

- Do not substitute planting hole soil with mulch, compost or fertilizer.
- Back-fill the planting hole, taking care to break up soil chunks.
- Lightly step around the tree base to firm up soil and remove air pockets.

Mulching:

- Organic mulch, such as composted wood chips greatly enhances tree growth.
- Place three to four inches of organic mulch in a saucer shape, 18-36 inches wide.
- Keep organic mulch away from base of tree and off trunk to prevent moisture buildup on the bark.



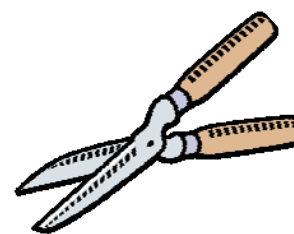
Initial Watering:

- Slowly and thoroughly water the tree to eliminate air pockets in soil.
- Initial watering should be approximately 10 to 15 gallons of water or until the water stands for a few seconds.
- Water is critical for tree survival during the first few years.
- Avoid every day watering in favor of heavy watering every 7 to 10 days to encourage deep root systems.



Finishing Planting:

- Remove tags and labels.
- Do not stake trunk unless the tree has a large crown, or it is planted on a windy site or where people may push it over. If staking is necessary, remove stakes within one-year.
- Prune any branches that are rubbing, crossed, or broken.
- Do not prune terminal (central) leader or branch tips.



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Restoration Of Our Trees

A pilot program to restore canopy cover in areas impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer.

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